The European Union's ENPARD (European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development) Initiative in Egypt

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for sustainable improvement of quality and quantity of horticultural production of small-scale farmers in Fayoum
Concept

Traditional agricultural practices are widespread in Fayoum with resultant low yields. The farmers generally do not perform any soil analysis or land levelling and there is little knowledge of the importance of crop diversification. Water user associations are generally lacking or inactive and so are agricultural cooperatives. This results in low yields and inefficient irrigation practices. In addition to the difficulties small holders face in obtaining fertilizers, the access to quality seeds is also limited. Most farmers purchase seeds from private suppliers who mix different qualities of seeds together to maximize their profit. Consequently, the resulting crops are mixed and inferior which has an adverse effect on the yield of each feddan planted.

Crop diversification is also generally lacking. Farmers tend to grow the crops they are traditionally used to plant. This could lead to decreased land fertility, increased risk of being attacked by pests, increased vulnerability to climatic changes, this is to name a few drawbacks. Also, there is lack of availability of agriculture machinery in the Agriculture Cooperatives which constitutes a major problem for small land holders as they must resort to privately owned machines that are rented by the hour at relatively high prices particularly for poor farmers. Those farmers who cannot afford to rent equipment must resort to manual methods and this adversely affects crop yields as well.
as the quantities of water used since land levelling is an important factor in efficient water management.

In view of the above, the “Scaling Up of Good Agricultural Practices in Fayoum” project will help small scale farmers to improve land and crop productivity in quality and quantity, increase their economic competitiveness and consequently enhance their living standards.

**Objectives**

The overall goal of this project is to improve the living condition of small-scale horticulture farmers in the five target villages in Fayoum governorate through increasing the competitiveness of their production and thus enhance the economic status of the rural poor especially small-scale horticultural growers through a participatory based development approach to promote the adoption of GAP related to the efficient use of land and water among the target beneficiaries.

**Stakeholders**

Small-scale farmers both men and women in the five designated villages. The action will specifically focus on approximately 1,000 farming households (200 per village) farming five feddans or less as they are often the most marginalised and constrained by poverty.
Expected results

- Small farmers’ associations (SFAs) established.
- Improved on-farm water management and water use efficiency technologies adopted.
- A study on land use, land cover and topography developed for the selection of suitable water harvesting measures.
- Sustainable soil fertility management practices adopted.
- Plastic greenhouse crop technology to produce improved seedlings and in-field integrated production and protection (IPP) of horticultural crops introduced to farmers.
- Crop diversification options introduced to farmers.
- Simple guidelines on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and business fact sheets for the principal horticultural crops grown developed.

Project partners:

- Union of Producers and Exporters of Horticultural Crops (UPEHC)
- Fayoum Agro Organic and Development Association (FAODA)
- Faculty of Agriculture, Fayoum University (FUFA)

Project duration:
March 2017 – September 2019

Project funding:
EUR 700 000
European Union

The European Union is made up of 28 member states who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

FAO

The FAO country representation office in Egypt was opened in 1978. Since then, FAO has cooperated and participated in agricultural and rural development activities which respond to the needs of the country. The main purpose of FAO representation in Egypt is to assist the government to develop policies, programmes and projects to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition; to help in developing the country’s agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors; and to use its environmental and natural resources in a sustainable way.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FAO Egypt and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.
European Union

The European Union is made up of 28 member states who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

FAO

The FAO country representation office in Egypt was opened in 1978. Since then, FAO has cooperated and participated in agricultural and rural development activities which respond to the needs of the country. The main purpose of FAO representation in Egypt is to assist the government to develop policies, programmes and projects to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition; to help in developing the country’s agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors; and to use its environmental and natural resources in a sustainable way.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FAO Egypt and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Representation in Egypt

Address : 11 Islah Ziraai St., Dokki, Egypt
Tel: +20-2-33316000
Fax: +20-2-37495981
E-mail: fao-egy@fao.org
Web site: www.fao.org/neareast

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt

Address: 1 El-Said Club St., Dokki, Giza, Egypt
Tel: +2 022 536 588
Email: info@agr-egypt.gov.eg
Website: agr-egypt.gov.eg

European Union- Joint Rural Development Programme (EU-JRDP) - sPMU Fayoum

Address: Al-Adala Tower, Entrance road of Fayoum, Dalla Zone, Apt.No 7,2nd Floor, Fayoum Governorate, Egypt
Telefax: +2 084 216 8387
Email: info@eu-jrdp.org
Website: www.eu-jrdp.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/eujrdp/

For more information:

European Union

Address : Nile City Towers, North Tower, 10th floor, 2005C,
Corniche El Nil, Ramlet Boulag, Cairo, Egypt
Twitter: @EUinEgy
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/EUDelagationegypt
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ1Me9-jssF56KKwzBh0_7w

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Representation in Egypt

Address : 11 Islah Ziraai St., Dokki, Egypt
Tel: +20-2-33316000
Fax: +20-2-37495981
E-mail: fao-egy@fao.org
Web site: www.fao.org/neareast

Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt

Address: 1 El-Said Club St., Dokki, Giza, Egypt
Tel: +2 022 536 588
Email: info@agr-egypt.gov.eg
Website: agr-egypt.gov.eg

European Union- Joint Rural Development Programme (EU-JRDP) - sPMU Fayoum

Address: Al-Adala Tower, Entrance road of Fayoum, Dalla Zone, Apt.No 7,2nd Floor, Fayoum Governorate, Egypt
Telefax: +2 084 216 8387
Email: info@eu-jrdp.org
Website: www.eu-jrdp.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/eujrdp/